

13

Docket No. UF-304XC2
Serial No. 10/691,002Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-24, 27-29, 31-58, 62-74, and 77-79 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 40, 41, 43, 51, and 54-57 have been amended. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Claims 40-58 and 62-74 remain pending but withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-16, 18-24, 27-29, 31-39, and 77-79 are currently before the Examiner for consideration. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claim 40 (which has been withdrawn) has been amended to remove the term "acidic" immediately preceding the term "polymer", and to add the phrase "wherein said polymer is characterized as becoming negatively charged when placed in an aqueous solution". Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 25, lines 28-31; page 26, lines 16-20; and page 27, lines 4-8 of the specification; and the claims as originally filed. Claims 41, 43, 51, and 54-57 have been amended to be consistent.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

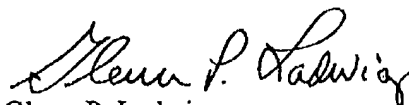
14

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The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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